

REMARKS

The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in the light of the Office Action to which this amendment is responsive. By this amendment, the claims have been amended to improve their form and to distinguish even more clearly over the prior art. In this regard, an effort has been made to correct each of the informalities noted in paragraph 1 of the Office Action.

With respect to the prior art, claims 1-19 have been rejected as being obvious over Schlect et al. '375 in view of Lichy, and reconsideration of such rejection is respectfully requested in the light of the foregoing amendments. Applicant has disclosed and claimed herein a roller blind arrangement for motor vehicles of a type in which a window shade web is moveable between open and closed positions by means of a pull rod arrangement whose movement is guided by rails on opposite ends of the pull rod. Due to the vibrations and shock to which the motor vehicle is exposed during travel, the pull rods of such window shades often are subjected to unwanted rattling within the guide rails. Although the gap between edges of the guide rails and the pull rod is small, the clearance space still permits vibrations that can cause annoying rattling and noise. Efforts to correct this problem by using high strength springs in the wind-up shaft have not been successful.

The present invention provides a motor vehicle window shade having a resilient lip mounted along the guide rail in contacting elastically deformed relation to the pull rod arrangement for biasing and maintaining the pull rod arrangement in continuous rattle free contact with the guide rail. The resilient lip further serves to acoustically cover the guide rail by being formed of a material that matches the interior of the motor vehicle.

Applicant's prior Lichy patent discloses a motor vehicle window shade of the type to which present invention is an improvement. Lichy, on the other hand, is not art that is analogous to the present invention. It relates to a roller curtain for use in buildings and deals with the problem of minimizing damage from vehicles striking the door. It does not concern window shades for automobiles, nor the problem of providing such a window shade which is reliable in operation while not creating distractful noise to inhabitants of the vehicle during travel. In any event, at most, Lichy would suggest using sealing brushes that are resiliently engageable with the window shade web. Neither Schlect nor Lichy provide any disclosure or suggestion of an automobile window shade having an elastic lip mounted along a guide rail in contacting

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elastically deformed relation to the pull rod arrangement for biasing and maintaining the pull rod arrangement into continuous rattle-free contact with the guide rail, as called for in independent claim 1. The dependent claims are directed to further more specific features of the invention and similarly distinguish over the prior art.

Hence, the claims as now presented all are believed to be directed to features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art so as to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis R. Schlemmer", is written over a horizontal line.

Dennis R. Schlemmer, Reg. No. 24,703
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

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